

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A media comprising:
  - a) an image-receiving layer on which an image may be formed;  
and
  - b) a protective overlayer provided over said image-receiving layer, said protective overlayer having machine-readable indicia integrally formed thereon during application of said protective overlayer over said image receiving layer.
2. (currently amended) A media comprising:
  - a) an image-receiving layer on which an image may be formed using a thermal head; and
  - b) a protective overlayer provided over said image-receiving layer, said protective overlayer having machine-readable indicia integrally formed thereon during application of said protective overlayer over said image receiving layer.
3. (original) The media of claim 2 wherein said indicia being transparent so as to allow viewing of an image provided on said image-receiving layer.
4. (original) The media of claim 2 wherein said protective overlayer comprises an IR absorbing dye.
5. (original) The media of claim 2 further comprising an adhesive layer for securing to an item.
6. (currently amended) A media comprising:
  - a) a 1<sup>st</sup> machine-readable indicia in an image layer on said media;  
and

b) a 2<sup>nd</sup> machine-readable indicia in a protective overlayer that is identical in content to, and in register with said 1<sup>st</sup> machine-readable indicia in said image layer, said machine-readable indicia being integrally formed during application of said protective overlayer over said image layer.

7. (currently amended) A label comprising:

a) a image-receiving layer on which an image may be formed using a thermal head; and

b) a protective overlayer provided over said image-receiving layer, said protective overlayer having machine-readable indicia integrally formed thereon during application of said protective overlayer over said image receiving layer.

8. (previously added) A media according to claim 1 wherein said machine-readable indicia comprises machine-readable code.

9. (previously added) A media according to claim 8 wherein said machine-readable code comprises a bar code.

10. (previously added) A media according to claim 2 wherein said machine indicia comprises a machine-readable code.

11. (previously added) A media according to claim 10 wherein said machine-readable code comprises a bar code.

12. (previously added) A media according to claim 6 wherein said machine-readable indicia comprises machine-readable code.

13. (previously added) A media according to claim 12 wherein said machine-readable code comprises a bar code.